

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that is believed to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 19 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification on page 11, lines 14-24 and on page 13, lines 1-20.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by AOKI et al. 5,382,295. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that AOKI et al. do not disclose the recited content of the phosphonic acids and non-ionic surfactant that is sufficient such that a droplet of a liquid composition including the recited content of the phosphonic acids and non-ionic surfactant or a dilute aqueous solution thereof exhibits a contact angle of 50° or less to the surface area of treatment, as recited in the amended claims.

Indeed, there is simply no recognition in this reference or any of the other publications that have been cited that the phosphonic acids and non-phosphonic acids are in amounts sufficient to obtain the claimed contact angle.

Thus, in view of the above, applicants believe that AOKI et al. fail to anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by SATOSHI et al. JP 2000-219900. This rejection is respectfully traversed. SATOSHI et al. is directed to a liquid detergent composition for cleaning clothes stained with hard to remove dirt by including a specific non-ionic surfactant and organic phosphonic acid composition.

Applicants respectfully submit that SATOSHI et al. do not disclose the recited content of phosphonic acids and non-ionic surfactant sufficient that a droplet of the liquid composition comprising the phosphonic acids and non-ionic surfactant, or a dilution thereof, exhibits a contact angle of 50° or less to the surface area of treatment, as recited in amended claim 1.

Thus, in view of the above, applicants believe that SATOSHI et al. fail to anticipate the claimed invention.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over BESSHO et al. 6,440,856. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

BESSHO et al. provide a cleaning agent for semiconductor parts. However, BESSHO et al. do not disclose the recited content of phosphonic acids and non-ionic surfactant sufficient such that a droplet of the liquid composition comprising the phosphonic acids and non-ionic surfactant, or a dilution thereof, exhibits a contact angle of 50° or less to the surface area of treatment, as recited in the amended claims.

BESSHO et al. further fail to suggest or provide any motivation to one skilled in the art to modify its teachings to select the recited contents, which lead to the recited contact angles.

In view of the above, applicants believe that one of ordinary skill in the art would lack the motivation to modify the BESSHO et al. reference so as to obtain the claimed invention.

Claims 10-12 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by AOKI et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that AOKI et al. do not disclose a content of phosphonic acid and a content of non-ionic surfactant wherein a droplet of an aqueous solution prepared by dissolving an equal content of the non-ionic surfactant in water exhibits a contact angle of 50° or less to a surface in which a water droplet exhibits a contact angle of 60° or more, as recited in amended claims 10 and 19.

Applicants further note that AOKI et al. do not disclose a content of phosphonic acid or non-ionic surfactant as recited in claims 14, 17 and 19. In fact, AOKI et al. teach grams per liter of these compounds and do not provide the overall volume of the composition so one may determine the wt% as recited in the present application.

Thus, in view of the above, applicants believe that AOKI et al. fail to anticipate the claimed invention of claims 10-12 and 14-19.

Claims 10-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by SATOSHI et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that SATOSHI et al. do not disclose a content of phosphonic acid and a content of non-ionic surfactant wherein the content of the non-ionic surfactant is sufficient that a droplet of an aqueous solution prepared by dissolving an equal content of the non-ionic surfactant in water exhibits a contact angle of 50° or less to a surface in which a water droplet exhibits a contact angle of 60° or more, as recited in amended claims 10 and 19.

Applicants further note that SATOSHI et al. fail to teach the recited total content of both the phosphonic acid and the non-ionic surfactant as recited in claims 17 and 19. In other words, 5-70% of ethoxylated alcohol and 0.01-10% of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid, as stated in the Official Action, in combination cannot produce a total content of 0.01-1 wt% as recited in claims 17 and 19.

Thus, in view of the above, applicants believe that SATOSHI et al. fail to anticipate the claimed invention of claims 10-19.

Claims 10-19 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over BESSHO et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated in the Official Action, BESSHO et al. generally discloses a cleaning agent containing a diphosphonic acid compound and an ethoxylated non-ionic surfactant, but the reference does not require cleaning agents containing these compounds with sufficient specificity. Applicants note that claims 10-19 as currently amended require a content of phosphonic acid and a content of non-ionic surfactant wherein the content of non-ionic surfactant is sufficient that a droplet of an aqueous solution prepared by dissolving an equal content of the non-ionic surfactant in water exhibits a contact angle of 50° or less to a surface in which a water droplet exhibits a contact angle of 60° or more.

However, BESSHO et al. do not provide the necessary motivation or reasonable expectation of success to one of ordinary skill in the art to select the content of non-ionic surfactant to obtain the recited contact angle.

Rather, BESSHO et al. disclose a cleaning agent containing a sulfonic acid containing copolymer, a phosphonic acid containing copolymer, a phosphonic acid compound and a surfactant, and do not specifically teach or suggest selecting a particular content in order to achieve a desired contact angle.

In view of the above, applicants believe that one of ordinary skill in the art would lack the motivation to modify the BESSHO et al. reference so as to obtain the claimed invention in the amended claims.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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